

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	CRIMINAL NO. _____
v.	:	DATE FILED: _____
JULIE C. MILLER,	:	VIOLATIONS:
a/k/a "J. Christine Miller,"		18 U.S.C. § 1341 (mail fraud - 3 counts)
a/k/a "J.C. Miller,"	:	
a/k/a "Julie Milder,"		
a/k/a "J. Muller"		

INFORMATION

COUNTS ONE THROUGH THREE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

At all times material to this Information:

1. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER resided at various addresses in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, including 7181 Logan Drive, New Tripoli, PA 18066; 7280 Adams St, New Tripoli, PA 18066; 2204 Apple Street, Hellertown, PA; and 8854 Breinig Run Circle, Breinigsville, PA 18031.
2. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER rented various post office boxes in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, including P. O. Box 13, New Tripoli, PA 18066; P.O. Box 116, New Tripoli, PA 18066; P.O. Box 59, Alburtis, PA; P. O. Box 832, Fogelsville, PA 18051; P.O. Box 617, Trexlertown, PA, 18087; and P.O. Box 627, Trexlertown, PA, 18087.
3. EBay was an internet-based company which operated a commercial online auction house. EBay acted as a broker between sellers of items and potential buyers. Although a

seller and a buyer were put in contact through eBay, the finalization of the transaction, including payment for and delivery of the item, was typically arranged by the buyer and the seller.

4. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER offered merchandise for sale on eBay using various aliases, including J. Christine Miller, J.C. Miller, Julie Milder, and J. Muller, and various screen names, including ourboysat9699, jat9699, mybabysboutique, babysmakeup, myhunnystuff; girlygurlsplac, sum1971, coinscoinsgalore, boobobaby9, horseylover0728, jbm0728, snoopntea, madisonsavanna711, and atryders. The merchandise MILLER offered included designer handbags, expensive jewelry, valuable coins, sports tickets, gift cards, and other items.

5. PayPal was an internet-based company that facilitated payment for merchandise sold on eBay by allowing buyers to pay sellers by using a credit card or direct withdrawal from a bank account. When a buyer and seller agreed to use PayPal to pay a winning eBay bid, the buyer gave PayPal his or her credit card or bank account number and allowed PayPal to charge that account for the amount of the purchase. PayPal then credited the seller's previously-established PayPal account with the amount of the auction purchase, less a fee for PayPal's service. The seller could then request that PayPal pay the funds credited to his or her PayPal account by check mailed to the seller or by wire transfer from PayPal's bank to the seller's bank.

6. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER accepted winning bids from other eBay users (the victims) for items she had posted for auction on eBay, and instructed the winners to pay her for the items she auctioned by sending a check or money order for a specified amount to her various Lehigh County addresses and post office boxes or by using the PayPal service.

THE SCHEME

7. From in or about November 2003 to in or about January 2005, defendant

JULIE C. MILLER,
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a/k/a “J.C. Miller,”
a/k/a “Julie Milder,”
a/k/a “J. Muller”

devised and intended to devise a scheme to defraud eBay victims, and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises.

MANNER AND MEANS

It was part of the scheme that:

8. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER used a computer to connect to the eBay internet auction site to offer expensive merchandise for sale, including jewelry, designer handbags, rare old coins, and sports tickets.

9. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER repeatedly opened numerous eBay accounts using variations of her surname, first name, or the names of acquaintances, as eBay suspended her user accounts for suspected fraud.

10. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER contacted the winning bidders by email, advised them that they had won the auction, and directed them to send payment by check or money order to one of Miller’s Lehigh County residences or post office boxes, or to use her PayPal account with eBay.

11. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER opened accounts at several check-cashing stores or currency exchanges in the Allentown, Pennsylvania area, and negotiated victims’ checks and PayPal payments through those establishments.

12. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER negotiated money orders received from victim bidders through U.S. Post Offices in the Allentown, Pennsylvania area.

13. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER failed to send merchandise ordered by the victim bidders after she had received the payment for those items, or sent merchandise of nominal value rather than the merchandise described in her eBay postings.

14. Defendant JULIE C. MILLER put off, by telephone or e-mail communication, victims who complained about not having received the merchandise ordered, or having received merchandise that did not match the items for which they had successfully bid and paid, by various methods, including falsely stating that items had been shipped and providing fraudulent tracking numbers of the purported shipments, saying that PayPal had not paid her, promising to send refund checks that she did not send or sending refund checks that bounced, and saying that shipment had been delayed because of personal or health problems.

15. As a result of her scheme to defraud eBay customers, defendant JULIE C. MILLER obtained at least \$51,000 from known victims.

16. On or about the following dates, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, defendant

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for the purpose of executing the scheme described above, and attempting to do so, knowingly

caused to be delivered by mail and commercial interstate carrier, according to the directions thereon, the following items:

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
1	7/13/04	Two money orders totalling \$1,202 payable to J. Christine addressed to 8854 Breinig Run Circle, Breinigsville, PA, 18031 for the purchase of diamond stud earrings
2	9/20/04	Money order for \$700 payable to Julie Miller addressed to 8854 Breinig Run Circle, Breinigsville, PA, 18031 for the purchase of two Pittsburgh Steelers tickets
3	1/10/05	Check for \$800.95 payable to J. Miller addressed to P.O. Box 627, Trexlertown, PA, 18087 for the purchase of a 1921 Standing Liberty coin

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.

PATRICK L. MEEHAN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY